

## HOUSE RESOLUTION 234

By Turner M

A RESOLUTION urging the President and Congress to enact legislation to improve our nation's energy efficiency, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and otherwise mitigate global warming.

WHEREAS, global warming and climate change are the greatest dangers now facing our country and the planet Earth; and

WHEREAS, according to the leading authority on climate change, the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), concentrations of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide have risen significantly due to human activity and now far exceed the levels from before the advent of modern industry, when humans commenced the large scale consumption of fossil fuels and land use patterns that now characterize our economies; and

WHEREAS, the concentrations of some of these gases in our atmosphere have risen to levels unprecedented in the last 650,000 years; and

WHEREAS, the heating of the Earth's complex climate systems is irrefutable; eleven of the last twelve years are the hottest ever observed in the instrumental record, indicative of an overall warming trend that saw the temperatures of the second half of the twentieth century exceed all other fifty-year periods during the previous 1,300 years; and

WHEREAS, the IPCC projects that these alterations to the global temperature will continue and will increase in the future with significant effects on the world's climate, including modifications to weather patterns and sea levels; and

WHEREAS, many of the world's leading nations have banded together to reverse the dangerous impact of global warming and climate change, including those that participate in the Kyoto Protocol's initiatives; and

WHEREAS, although the United States represents only about four percent (4%) of the world's population, it has contributed more than thirty percent (30%) of the world's carbon

dioxide emissions, more than any other nation. Despite this, the United States has not joined the world's other industrialized nations in endorsing the Kyoto Protocol; and

WHEREAS, immediate action is necessary to lessen the many harmful effects of global warming; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby urge the President of the United States and the United States Congress to join other countries in working to mitigate global warming and to play a leading role in protecting our planet and future generations from significant, irreversible harm by enacting legislation to improve our nation's energy efficiency and significantly reduce our nation's emissions of greenhouse gases.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that enrolled copies of this resolution be prepared and sent to each member of the United States Congressional Delegation from Tennessee and to President George W. Bush.